

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**

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**NOTICE OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING  
(CH. 11A – ACCESSIBILITY)**

HCD's State Housing Law staff is currently completing adoption of the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) into the 2007 California Building Code (CBC). Final adoption hearings are set for January 29 and 30, 2007. With adoption of the IBC, California will join a number of other states making the transition to the leading building code used throughout the country. The accelerated timeline for this code cycle should have the 2007 CBC effective at the local enforcement level by January 1, 2008, almost a full year faster than prior triennial code cycles.

Chapter 11A as rewritten in the Phase I and Phase II process will become effective in May, 2007, and has been published as a supplement to the 2001 CBC. HCD has carried that same Chapter 11A forward with minor revisions into the adoption of the 2007 CBC. Although we anticipate some lingering issues between adoption and the effective date of the building code, we would like to get the Chapter 11A focus group back together to consider items identified, but not addressed by the group during Phase I and Phase II.

As a group, we developed the following work plan and phases:

- **Phase I** – Change flow, identify areas of improvement
- **Phase II** – Rewrite, clarify, and ensure compatibility of Chapters 11A & 11B
- **Phase III** – Develop new language if appropriate, consider new products, other options

Publication of the rewritten Chapter 11A marks the end of Phase II of our work plan. Part of the work plan included a method to track concerns raised during Phases I and II, which, if addressed then, would have bogged down the process. These items were placed in a "parking lot" for consideration in Phase III. As the Phase III project proceeds, we will prioritize and address items contained in the "parking lot", do some general clean-up of Chapter 11A and address additional items as time allows.

Currently, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) is expecting the next code cycle to start in September, 2007. The goal of this project is to address as many items from the "parking lot" list as possible and incorporate them into a rulemaking package to be submitted to the Building Standards Commission in September, 2007. Due to the short time period between now and September, we may not be able to address all of the items, but would like to move forward and accomplish as much as possible.

For the members new to this focus group, and for review of those who have been with the project from the start, HCD has seen some leadership and staffing changes. Our Director, Lynn Jacobs, has been with HCD since Spring, 2006. Director Jacobs has a broad background in housing construction and is carrying forward the commitment to this project that will allow us to move forward to Phase III. Kim Strange, Deputy Director of Code and Standards, has been with HCD since 1992 and also remains very supportive of this project. In addition to Lynn and Kim, Peter Solomon, Doug Walls, and Shawn Huff have joined HCD since our last meeting. Peter, Doug and Shawn also come to HCD with a wide range of housing experience and will have hands-on involvement in this project. As for Dee and I, we are looking forward to working with all of you again.

We have scheduled an all-day meeting beginning at **10:00 A.M.** on **February 22, 2007** to be held at HCD headquarters in Sacramento. Please RSVP by February 15, 2007 to Dee Benbow by e-mail at [dbenbow@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:dbenbow@hcd.ca.gov) or by telephone at (916) 445-9471.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Doug Hensel by e-mail at [dhensel@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:dhensel@hcd.ca.gov) or by telephone at (916) 445-9471.